

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0547

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FOR EUR/WE AND H

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US VISIT OF FRENCH SENATE VICE-
PRESIDENT ETIENNE DAILLY

1. ETIENNE DAILLY, 57 YEAR-OLD VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SENATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE'S 134-MEMBER FRANCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP, OUTLINED TO EMBOFF JUNE 17 HIS DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON DURING THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 3 TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR, PERIODIC CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN COUNTER-PARTS. WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF HIS GROUP, DAILLY HOPES TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE AMERICAN SENATORS TO PROPOSE THAT THEY SET UP A US-FRENCH FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN THE US SENATE. THE TWO GROUPS WOULD THEN MEET ONCE YEARLY IN ALTERNATE CAPITALS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST AGREED ON IN ADVANCE.

2. DAILLY IS VERY SERIOUS IN HIS INTENTION TO BEGIN REGULAR, INSTITUTIONALIZED CONTACTS AMONG US AND FRENCH SENATORS. HE IS AWARE OF US CONGRESSIONAL RETICENCE, BUT IS DETERMINED TO PURSUE NONETHELESS UNLESS HIS WASHINGTON VISIT PROVES TO HIM THAT SUFFICIENT INTEREST SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST.

3. DAILLY IS ALSO MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF NEMOURS. HE
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WANTS TO SPEND A DAY OR TWO DURING HIS VISIT CONFERRING

WITH CITY OFFICIALS IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE TWINNING OF THE TWO CITIES, WHICH HE FINDS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE BASED ON THE DUPONT FAMILY ORIGINS IN HIS TOWN.

4. DAILLY, WHO FOUGHT UNDER GENERAL PATTON'S COMMAND IN WORLD WAR II, IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC FRIEND OF THE US AND HAS VISITED THE COUNTRY SEVERAL TIMES. HE ENJOYS GREAT PRESTIGE IN THE SENATE, AND HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE FRANCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP CAN BE CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER US-FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF APPOINTMENTS COULD BE SET UP WITH SENATORS LIKELY TO BE RECEPTIVE TO HIS PROPOSAL (SUCH AS, PERHAPS, SENATORS SPARKMAN, RICHARD CLARK AND BIDEN). WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR DAILLY DURING THE SAME WEEK WITH THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, COMBINED IF POSSIBLE WITH A BIT OF TOURISM AROUND WILMINGTON INCLUDING THE WINTERTHUR GARDENS.
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